



JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) met December 3, 2015, at the Polk County River Place.

Division/National Update. Steve Michael, Director of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Division of the Department of Human Rights, reported on several items:

- The Department of Human Rights (DHR) budget hearing was held on December 15, 2015. During the hearing, the CJJP presented a status quo budget to the Governor. The CJJP also requested additional funds to continue the work of the Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI) and Results First projects. The federal grant currently funding the program is set to expire in September 2016. The JJRRI is currently focused on the first, third, and sixth districts, but additional funding is needed for the program to expand statewide.
- Senator Grassley introduced the Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act earlier this year. This legislation remains in the Justice Committee and its future is uncertain.

Council Budget Report. There is about \$7,000 left in the Council account for this year. The Council is planning to use the funds to send council members and staff to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice annual conference.

Policy and Program Subcommittee Issues

- **Third Grade Retention:** The Council discussed issues that may arise with the implementation of Iowa Code section [279.68\(1\)\(c\)](#), scheduled to begin May 1, 2017. Potential issues included the risk of retaining at-risk students and creating an unfunded mandate for the schools. The Council plans to send a letter expressing its concerns with the new law to interested parties in the government.
- **Juvenile Delinquency Records — Governor's Task Force:** The Council discussed the Governor's Task Force recommendation regarding the confidentiality of juvenile delinquency records. Council members agreed with the recommendation and suggested it should be expanded further to include arrest records. The Criminal Justice Advisory Council and the Public Safety Board have been advised to work more on these issues and review all of the information submitted to the working group. In addition, the Policy and Programs Subcommittee will look into the issue further.

Correctional Impact Statements: Minority Impact Section: Sarah Johnson (CJJP analyst) gave an overview of the purpose and procedure for correctional impact statements. Discussion on the legislative reception of the statements followed.

Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) — Request for Information (RFI): The Council discussed an RFI from the DHS regarding child welfare emergency services, foster group care, and supervised apartment living child welfare services. Council members should submit their responses to the RFI individually due to time constraints.

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Iowa Chapter — Statewide Call Action: A Strategic Plan: The strategic plan was distributed and the Council discussed whether it should endorse the plan and list itself as a supporting organization on the document. Council members were encouraged to review the document and raise any concerns.

Current Activities: The Council held discussion and provided general updates on each of its five priorities:

- **Evidence Based Practices**
 - Steve Michael (CJJP Director) attended a 50-state forum on improving outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.
 - The conference challenged states to develop a comprehensive plan to improve outcomes of juveniles in the system. The Council hopes to have all three branches of government participate in the plan.
 - The Council plans to submit a letter expressing interest in a visit from the National Re-Entry Resource Center (NRRC)
 - Federal reentry grant discussion
 - The Second Chance Act granted the implementation funds for the reentry grant. The purpose of the \$135,000 grant is to assess services provided to juveniles.
 - Discussion followed on the strategies, concerns, and issues moving forward.
- **Compliance Monitoring and Research:** The state is federally required to comply with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The Council discussed the procedure for compliance and data collection.
- **Gender Equity**
- **Disproportionate Minority Contact**
- **Mental Health, Substance Abuse**

Legislative Action Plan. The action plan was discussed and Council members were encouraged to forward their comments to staff members for the Policy and Programs Subcommittee meeting in January. The following issues and proposals are included in the legislative action plan:

- Confidentiality of juvenile records.
- Addressing the third grade retention law (Iowa Code section [279.68](#)).
- Extending juvenile court jurisdiction for all youth under jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
- Human Trafficking.
- Banning the indiscriminate use of shackles, restrains, etc. on youth while in court.
- Gender Equity.
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse.
- Overrepresentation of Minorities in the justice system.
- Evidence-Based Practices.
- Disciplinary Exclusion of Youth from School.
- Use of restraints/seclusion of youth in juvenile detention, shelter care, group foster care facilities and PMIC's.
- Reducing the caseload of Juvenile Court Officers (JCO) by increasing the number of JCOs in the state.
- Giving juvenile citations in place of arrests for specified offenses.
- Modification of the racial impact statement law to include bills that affect DHS & DOE.
- Develop a "Courtroom Etiquette" guidance document for juveniles.

Next Meeting. The Advisory Council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at Polk County River Place.

STAFF CONTACT: Laura Book (515-725-0509) laura.book@legis.iowa.gov